

The Rubbish RESOURCE



A Publication of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division

Spring 2002

THE BIRTH OF AN ORGANIZATION

In 1999, Carl Quiram, PE, Goffstown Director of Public Works and member of the State Waste Management Council attended a meeting of the American Public Works Association International Congress. It was there that Quiram heard a presentation on how the State of Florida developed a public works academy, which provides comprehensive basic public works training and prepares people for a career in public works. Public works employees are employed in a wide variety of jobs, which require certification and training in such areas as in solid waste, drinking water, and wastewater. As a Public Works Director, Quiram concluded that dealing with the lack of *coordinated* training in the public works workforce was one of his most time consuming duties. Thus, an idea was born.

As a direct result of Quiram's vision, the "NH Public Works Academy Committee" was formed in June of 2000. The Committee's mission is "to develop and maintain a voluntary standard of training for all aspects of the public works profession". The committee members include public works directors and road agents from large and small municipalities, staff from the NH Municipal Association (NHMA), PRIMEX³, NH Department of Transportation, University of New Hampshire's Technology Transfer Center, New England Waterworks Association, and DES. Recognizing the potential impact that public works employees can have on the environment, Dana Bisbee, Assistant Commissioner of DES, has been supportive of the project since its inception.

As a result of hard work and high enthusiasm for the project, the committee has made great strides since June 2000. Many training goals for public works employees were identified, and a series of

training curricula were developed. The pilot training program was offered in October 2001 with 21 students graduating.



DES Assistant Commissioner Dana Bisbee (left) congratulates Carl Quiram for his leadership with the NH Public Works Academy Committee.

During curricula development, committee members were also busy developing organization by-laws and operating rules for the "New Hampshire Public Works Standards and Training Council" (NHPWSTC), a non-profit organization. The NHPWSTC operates under the auspices of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, and has a board of directors consisting of 13 appointed and elected positions. Many members of the board were also original members of the founding committee. Their first meeting was held December 6, 2001, and Quiram currently serves as Chairman of the Board.

During 2002, the NHPWSTC will offer training in the seacoast area and in the North Country. Registration packets will be mailed to all municipalities a month prior to training. The DES Solid Waste Operator Training Program looks forward to working with the newly formed organization.

REMINDER

The Solid Waste Annual Facility Reports are due on **March 31, 2002!** If you did not receive your report forms or need assistance in completing the forms, contact Parker Morgan at (603) 271-5380. The report forms are also available on the DES website at: www.des.state.nh.us/pcas.



As in previous years, we will be spending considerable time and effort to retrieve *all* of the annual facility reports. The numbers are very important in evaluating our progress towards the 40% goal of waste reduction and in measuring our future capacity needs.

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT YARD WASTE



As the snow melts away, we are all reminded that the time for spring cleanup is just around the corner. This also means that

business will be picking up at the transfer station as residents look for ways to dispose of or compost their leaf and yard waste.

To ensure a smooth spring operation, you need to prepare for the increased amounts of yard waste coming in. Here are a few tips.

- 1) Visible signage: Signs that can be easily read and understood can help to reduce contamination and encourage proper placement of yard waste.
- 2) Vehicle parking: With so many vehicles coming and going, you may want to make sure that there is plenty of parking while residents are unloading. If space for parking is a problem, staff can help unload vehicles or at least assist with traffic flow.
- 3) In the spring and summer, a large portion of the yard waste is grass. Grass is very high in nitrogen

and can cause odor problems in your compost pile if you don't have enough leaves (carbon) in your mix. To avoid odor issues, keep some of last year's finished batch of compost and mix it into your fresh pile. Cover the pile with some finished compost as needed (at least a couple of inches) to reduce odors. This will not only help with odors but will also reinoculate your compost pile with beneficial organisms.

- 4) Monitor the compost pile for contaminants, temperature, moisture and odors. See DES Fact Sheet # 3, *Municipal Yard Waste Composting* for more specifics.

The Department will be presenting two workshops devoted to composting municipal yard waste. The first workshop will be at the Hampton Transfer Station on May 23, 2002. The second workshop will be at the Plymouth Transfer Station on October 17, 2002. These half-day workshops will demonstrate some basic management techniques to get the most out of your compost program.

For more information, please contact Marc Morgan, DES Recycling Coordinator at (603) 271-3712 or by email at mmorgan@des.state.nh.us.

IT'S COMING... AMERICA RECYCLES DAY 2002



The 6th annual celebration of *America Recycles Day* in NH falls on Friday, November 15th. To assist in the planning and implementation process, a ten member

committee has been assembled. Committee members come from all over the state and include municipal solid waste managers, as well as solid waste district and state agency representatives.

The primary goal of *America Recycles Day* is to increase waste diversion through education and outreach. Creative programs and events are

developed to raise awareness and increase participation in local recycling programs.

This year's America Recycles Day in New Hampshire will once again include a School Recycling Calendar Contest, "Best Municipal Recycling Program", and a Statewide drawing. Packets detailing the contests and events will be sent out later this summer. Last year's calendar can be downloaded at www.des.state.nh.us/pcas.

For more information about America Recycles Day in NH, visit our website at www.des.state.nh.us/pcas/nhard or contact Marc Morgan, DES Recycling Coordinator, at 271-3712 or by email at mmorgan@des.state.nh.us.

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